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The Honorable Doc Hastings:

I'm a small business entrepreneur having an on-line Health & Nutrition business. The genesis of my Internet "problems" was in January 1999 when I decided to unsubscribe from three online newsletters. My on-line business was picking up and I didn't have time to spend reading the many emails that I was being sent (8-10/day).

I tried, unsuccessfully, to unsubscribe from early February 1999 to Mid-March 1999. The daily emails kept on coming. In early April 1999, I asked my Internet Service Provider (ISP) to help me put a stop to the emails...nothing changed...the emails kept on coming.

I then asked my new Internet Presence Provider (IPP) to help me…nothing changed...the emails kept on coming.

In June 1999, I asked a private attorney to send the "spammer" a "cease and desist" letter…nothing changed...the emails kept on coming.

In July 1999 (actully June 1999), I asked the Washington State Attorney General's Office in Kennewick, WA for help. They sent a letter to the "spammer"…nothing changed…the emails are still coming in-but at an accelerated pace.

Yesterday, I received a computer "virus" from the "spammer"… the emails keep on coming.

I have been in contact with the FBI as my business ad page was being "hacked". They say that they can not help as the US Attorney has a "threshold" amount of damages that a business must sustain to be able to receive help ($15,000)...we calculate our losses in excess of $20,000 (roughly 15% of annual revenues) due to the hacking. Further, they said there is nothing that they could do about the spamming, either. The agents that I talked to acknowledged that a crime had been committed-but stated they did not have the resources…

Where does a small business go when their lawyer, AG, and FBI can not provide relief?

Thanks for listening!

Regards,

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